



ESF #11 MONTHLY REPORT



January 2009



National Preparedness and Response Efforts

ACTIVATIONS

TRAINING / EXERCISES



FEMA Region I, New England Severe Winter Storm - Christine Sullivan ESF#11 coordinated with the FEMA RRCC in Boston, MA; worked with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to coordinate the provision of USDA food commodities; and worked through the APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine and ESF #11 programs to help ensure appropriate steps to prevent the movement of downed trees in areas of Worcester, Massachusetts, that are under State and Federal quarantine to prevent the spread of the Asian Longhorned Beetle.



FEMA Region X - On January 7, 2009, ESF #11 received an activation for statewide flooding in Washington resulting from Winter Storms. APHIS responded to manage the ESF #11 desk at the RRCC the day of the activation until January 9. Contact was made with all partner agencies and the WA Department of Agriculture during the activation. Primary engagement was with FEMA R X as no further mission assignments for assistance to the state were received.



Presidential Inauguration, January 17 – 21, 2009 - FEMA Region III, along with FEMA Headquarters hosted a series of meetings and calls to focus on coordination efforts between agencies, specific ESF actions and to establish future planning requirements. ESF #11 provided support at the NRCC, Mt. Weather, and the RRCC located in FEMA Region III.



ESF #11 Desk Officer Training for FEMA HQ NRCC Staff - was conducted on January 15, 2009. Coordinators from FEMA Regions II, III, VII, and VIII. APHIS HQ ESF #11 staff as well as HQ employees from all the partner agencies who serve on the NRCC Desk Officer Teams attended the desk officer training to learn more about NRCC desk operations and coordination with the RRCC ESF #11 desks.



USDA COOP Presidential Transition Tabletop Exercise – FNS assisted in exercise preparation and served as Subject Matter Experts for a COOP Tabletop Exercise conducted for USDA officials who have or will have COOP responsibilities during the transition period. The exercise included both COOP and emergency scenarios that provided officials an opportunity to learn roles and essential functions of USDA mission areas and USDA's role as part of the National Response Framework.



FEMA Region IV - Regional Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise. George Chambliss and ESF#11 partners FSIS, FNS and DOI participated in the initial Planning meeting for the exercise which is scheduled to be held in May in conjunction with FEMA Region III.



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The exercise included representatives from FSIS, the state and local public health, law enforcement, emergency management offices, APHIS, EPA, FDA, DHS, and USDA's Office of Inspector General.

MEETINGS



The Office of Data Integration and Food Protection conducted training and a food defense exercise to focus on public health notifications, risk communications, sampling and laboratory operations, recall and effectiveness checks, and recovery stemming from an intentional adulteration of a meat product



Roundtable Crises Discussion - held at the Global Communications Center, Center for Disease Control campus in Atlanta, Georgia January 28 – 29, 2009. Jim Barrett, APHIS Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) Specialist, was a participant. The meeting is designed to provide a forum for federal agency health communicators to engage in dialogue about critical issues related to communicating with the public about radiation emergencies and public health crises.



Meeting with Voluntary Organizations on Response to 2008 Hurricanes: FNS participated in a meeting hosted by FEMA with voluntary organizations, such as the Red Cross, Feeding America, Southern Baptist and Salvation Army to review mass care and feeding response to the 2008 hurricanes. The meeting also provided a forum on how to improve collaboration on future disasters. FNS provided a presentation on how FNS provides nutrition assistance as part of disaster relief efforts. The group committed to meeting again in February to continue the dialogue.



Region V RISC meeting in Chicago which ran concurrently with a radiological exercise in Point Beach, Wisconsin - Phil Gruzalski represented APHIS ESF#11. Region V ESF's and state representatives participated in a tabletop exercise from the perspective of the RRCC. The focus was to protect the public from the effects of exposure to radioactive materials, either directly or through release into the environment. The ESF's identified statutory responsibilities and potential assets which can be provided to the Wisconsin EOC and the RRCC in Chicago.



New Jersey (NJ) Domestic Security Task Force meeting - Holly Chmil provided feedback to the State's disaster preparedness and public education campaign, and their field operational guides. She also represented APHIS to the Food Policy Institute's meeting project with NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness regarding restoration of the food supply chain and the utilization of the private sector (retail food stores) in disasters.



Hurricane CONPLAN - January 5, ESF #11 Staff participated in a meeting hosted by FEMA Headquarters to review and update the current plan.